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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

December 27, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: National Security Study Directive (NSSD) 82-13

I have reviewed the recently approved NSSD-13, National Space Strategy. There are several issues of critical importance to the Intelligence Community and the National Reconnaissance Office that must be noted. First, the NSSD directs that the Senior Interagency Group (SIG) Space, conduct a wide ranging series of studies to develop a national space strategy and that these studies be given the highest national priority. I do not believe that all of the studies deserve the highest priority or that the studies are within the purview of the terms of reference (Attachment 1) for the SIG (Space). The subjects of several studies affect either a single department or at most two departments; for example, the subject of the realignment of space reconnaissance organizations is a responsibility given to the Director of Central Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense in Executive Order 12333, United States Intelligence Activities. Further, the concept of determining within the interagency forum the appropriate mix and adequacy of funding between the three space sectors is not likely to be productive. I also do not believe budgets and programs should be subjected to interagency debate until we have made specific recommendations.

The SIG (Space) mechanism was established by National Security Decision Directive (NSDD) 42, National Space Policy, to periodically review the policy implications involving implementation of the national space policy. It is also chartered to provide for orderly and rapid referral of space policy issues to the President as necessary and these issues are to be identified through the interagency process. This process did not occur in development of NSSD-13.

I can understand the concern of the NSC Staff to insure the federal agencies and departments are properly implementing the national space policy. Rather than proceeding directly to a set of major studies to be completed in a compressed time frame, I believe the appropriate action is to defer NSSD-13 and have each organization provide briefings to the SIG (Space) on their programs to implement the policy. This would allow the SIG principals to determine if follow-on actions are required to assist in implementation or if any issues should be referred to the President for decision.



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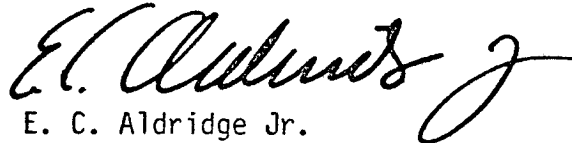
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If you concur in this approach, I recommend you take the following actions:

a. Send a note to Judge Clark (draft at Attachment 2) to outline DCI concerns and a proposed course of action.

b. Speak personally with Judge Clark concerning the procedures and process used to develop NSSD-13 and how SIG (Space) issues should be developed and coordinated.

I have provided a similar memorandum to the Secretary of Defense. If you so desire, I would be pleased to discuss this subject in more detail.


E. C. Aldridge Jr.

2 Attachments

1. TOR for SIG (Space)
2. Draft Memorandum

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CONFIDENTIAL**SENIOR INTERAGENCY GROUP FOR SPACE (U)****TERMS OF REFERENCE (U)**

1. The SIG(Space) is established by authority of National Security Decision Directive (NSDD) 42, National Space Policy, dated July 4, 1982, which outlines the purpose and composition of the Group. (C)
2. More specifically, the SIG(Space) will:
 - a. Periodically review the policy implications involving implementation of NSDD-42. Existing interagency coordinating mechanisms will be employed to the maximum extent possible. (U)
 - b. Provide a forum to all Federal agencies for their policy views. (U)
 - c. Review and advise on proposed changes to national space policy. (U)
 - d. Provide for orderly and rapid referral of space policy issues to the President for decisions as necessary. (U)
3. An Interagency Group (IG) for Space, chaired by the NSC, will be established to provide recommendations to the SIG(Space) and to address lower-level issues. IG(Space) membership will be at the Assistant Secretary level from the same agencies and offices represented on the SIG(Space). (U)
4. Working Groups will be formed to conduct studies and projects assigned by the SIG(Space). (U)
5. The SIG(Space) will meet as required. Agenda items (including potential new issues proposed by SIG members) and supporting documents will be forwarded to SIG(Space) members in advance of scheduled meetings. (U)
6. The NSC Staff will be responsible for recording and publishing minutes of meetings. (U)

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